

Message Text

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13/16

ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8010

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

*USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5488

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LINE FOUR FIRST WORD)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; MEETING WITH FRG DEFAD GENERAL
SCHUNEMANN

REF: USNATO 6360

1. ON 3 OCTOBER USNATO DEFAD (LEGERE) AGAIN CALLED ON FRG DEFAD
(SCHUNEMANN) TO FURTHER DISCUSS MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. FIRST POINT
EMERGING FROM NEW CONVERSATION IS THAT GERMANS DEFINITELY
NOT PLANNING TO SUBMIT ANY PAPER PARALLELING US MINISTERIAL

GUIDANCEDRAFT AND ALMOST SURELY NOT PLANNING ANY WRITTEN
SUBMISSION TO DRC OR OTHER NATO FORUM. SCHUNEMANN CONFIRMED
THAT A WRITTEN FRG SUBMISSION OR PERHAPS EVEN A COMPLETE COUNTER-
DRAFT WAS IN THE PICTURE NOT TOO LONG AGO BUT HAS NOW DROPPED OUT
OF CONSIDERATION.

2. INSTEAD FRG IS APPARENTLY WORKING FROM A 6-7 PAGE "OUTLINE"
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OF TALKING POINTS FOCUSED ON VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF US PAPER.
SCHUNEMANN HAD THIS OUTLINE AND REFERRED TO IT DURING CONVERSATION
WITH DEFAD. ACCORDING TO SCHUNEMANN, OUTLINE IS NOW UNDER SERIOUS
REVIEW IN BONN THAT WILL CULMINATE THERE ON 15 OCTOBER WITH A

MEETING TO DECIDE ON FINAL DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS TO FRG
DELEGATION HERE ON HOW TO USE THE OUTLINE -- I.E., POINTS ON
WHICH TO INSIST, POINTS ON WHICH TO APPEAR FLEXIBLE, ETC.
FRG COMMENTS BY SCHUNEMANN IN DRC WILL BE ORAL RATHER THAN WRITTEN.

3. SCHUNEMANN, REFERRING TO OUTLINE, SAID HE IS SURE FRG WILL BE
AGREEING THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE THIS TIME AROUND WILL BE MORE
IMPORTANT THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE. HE ALSO SEEMS SURE THAT
BONN WILL INSTRUCT HIM TO INSIST THAT FRG CANNOT ACCEPT ANY FURTHER
"BURDENS" IN THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL MANPOWER OR MONEY OR OTHERWISE.
HE SEEMS ALMOST EQUALLY SURE THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WILL ALSO PROVIDE
THAT HE UNDERLINE FRG BELIEF THAT CONVENTIONAL FORCE
IMPROVEMENTS, WHICH THEY FULLY SUPPORT, WILL MAKE FEASIBLE THE
EXECUTION OF THE PRESENT, REPEAT PRESENT, NATO STRATEGY. REFERRING
TO US PAPER'S MENTION OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL AVAILABLE FORCES,
SCHUNEMANN INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT FRG MIGHT TAKE A CRACK OR
TWO AT THIS BECAUSE OF ITS ALLEGED IMPLICATION OF A LONG-DURATION
WAR ON GERMAN SOIL.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT FRG DELEGATION TO NATO HAS
RECEIVED REVISED GUIDANCE SINCE CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL. IT
ALSO SEEMS CLEAR THAT GERMANS ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID OPEN DISPUTE
WITH THE US ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; THEY ARE THEREFORE APPARENTLY
TRYING TO ACCOMODATE TO OUR POSITION AS MUCH AS THEY CAN. IT DOES,
HOWEVER, LOOK AS THOUGH THEY WILL STRONGLY OPPOSE WHAT THEY READ
AS US OVERSTATEMENT OF THE SATISFACTORY CONDITION OF THE CONVENTIONAL
BALANCE, AS WELL AS OTHER ELEMENTS OF US PAPER THAT THEY
CAN READ AS IMPLYING A LONG-DURATION CONVENTIONAL WAR.
MCAULIFFE.

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